

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/613,344

Examiner

Ping Lee

Applicant(s)

RYBICKI ET AL.

Art Unit

2644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 7/2/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 July 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 12/8/04
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Ping Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2644

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. Applicant's election with traverse of election requirement in the reply filed on 7/2/04 is persuasive. The restriction requirement made in the Office action mailed on 6/2/04 is hereby withdrawn.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Markinson on 12/8/04.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Regarding claim 1, line 4, the phrase
--having more than two audio output channels—
has been added after "audio".

Regarding claim 5, line 6, the phrase
--wherein said multiple channel audio operation involves more than two audio output channels—
has been added after "operation".

Regarding claim 9, line 6, the phrase
--having more than two audio output channels—
has been added after "audio".

Regarding claim 10, line 2, the word --module—has been added before "to".

Regarding claim 11, line 2, the word –module—has been added before “to”.

Regarding claim 11, line 2, the phrase “line driver” has been replaced with –line-in driver--.

Regarding claim 12, line 2, the word –module—has been added before “to”.

Regarding claim 13, line 4, the phrase
--having more than two audio output channels—
has been added after “audio”.

Regarding claim 17, line 6, the phrase
--wherein said multiple channel audio operation involves more than two audio output
channels—
has been added after “operation”.

Regarding claim 21, line 6, the phrase
--having more than two audio output channels—
has been added after “audio”.

Regarding claim 22, line 2, the word –module—has been added before “to”.

Regarding claim 22, line 4, the word “line” has been replaced with –microphone--.

Regarding claim 23, line 2, the word –module—has been added before “to”.

Regarding claim 23, line 2, the word “line” has been replaced with –microphone--.

Regarding claim 24, line 2, the word –module—has been added before “to”.

4. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art in the record fails to disclose, teach or suggest to selectively connect the multiple channel driver or line-in driver to an audio jack depending whether outputting the stereo audio or

more than two audio output channels as specified in claims 1, 5 and 9 respectively. The prior art in the record also fails to disclose, teach or suggest to selectively connect the multiple channel driver or microphone driver to an audio jack depending whether outputting the stereo audio or more than two audio output channels as specified in claims 13, 17 and 21 respectively.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Reference Ueno discloses a tape recorder capable of supplying output to the speaker from the recorder or supplying microphone to the recorder using a single audio jack.

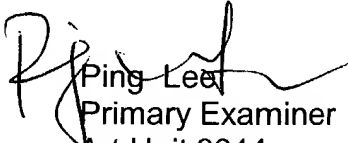
Reference Ho discloses a surround sound system for a computer.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ping Lee whose telephone number is 703-305-4865.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday and Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Forester W Isen can be reached on 703-305-4386. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Ping Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2644

pwl